

The Medical Personnel Loan Repayment Program is a state financed and administered program designed to encourage Nurse Practitioners, Physician Assistants and Certified Nurse Midwives to practice in North Dakota and to serve in areas of need. Each person selected may receive up to \$10,000 to repay educational loans. Each Nurse Practitioner, Physicians Assistant or Certified Nurse Midwife selected must practice for two years in a selected community or communities. The community (usually a community hospital or clinic) pays half of the loan repayment award (\$ 5,000 state, \$5,000 community). Five people may be selected each year. Preference is given to people who will work in rural underserved areas.

Application deadline:

Applications are accepted at any time. The State Health Council reviews each application at its next meeting. The State Health Council generally meets quarterly during the calendar year. However, the program is focused on new graduates so students should apply in the first or second quarter of their final year. For dates of upcoming State Health Council meetings call the North Dakota Department of Health at 701-328-2372 or email lrodahl@state.nd.us.

Who May Apply?

Nurse Practitioners, Physician Assistants and Certified Nurse Midwives who will graduate within one year after submitting an application or have graduated from an accredited training program in the United States or Canada and have not practiced full-time in North Dakota within three years before the date of the application.

Nurse Practitioner, Physician Assistant and Certified Nurse Midwife Selection Criteria:

- The extent to which the applicant's training is needed in the community.
- The applicant's commitment to serve.
- The applicant achieving a financial match with a selected community.
- The availability of the applicant for service.
- The applicant's professional competence and conduct.
- The willingness of the applicant's employer or supervising physician to accept Medicare and Medicaid assignment.

Preference is given to people who are enrolled in or have graduated from a North Dakota training program or to North Dakota residents who are enrolled in or have graduated from an accredited training program in another state or Canada.

Community Selection Criteria:

- The ratio of physicians and mid-level health care practitioners to population in the community.
- Access of community residents to health care in the community and surrounding area.
- Expected number of annual clinic visits within the community.

- The mix of health care providers within the community
- Indications of community support for mid-level health care practitioner utilization within the community.

Preference is given to communities that demonstrate a need for primary health care practitioners and to communities with less than 15,000 people.

Loan Repayment and Service Obligation

Each person selected into the program may receive up to \$10,000, depending on the amount of the education loans including interest. The health professional may not receive an amount greater than his/her education loans. Half of the loan repayment dollars are paid by the community (usually a community hospital or clinic) and half are paid by the Department of Health. The first payment is made after the health professional has completed three months of full time service and the remaining payments are made on the anniversary date of employment.

Each health professional selected into the program must enter a two year non-renewable contract with the North Dakota Department of Health and the selected community. The Department and community agree to pay loan repayment dollars to the health professional and the health professional agrees to provide two years of full-time service in the selected community or communities. If the health professional breaches the loan repayment contract, he/she is liable for twice the remaining amount to be paid under the contract.

Application Material:

The Medical Personnel Loan Repayment Program is jointly administered by the North Dakota Department of Health and the Center for Rural Health at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine & Health Sciences. Application forms may be obtained from the North Dakota Department of Health website at (<http://www.health.state.nd.us/ndhd/resource/oca/>) or by contacting:

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Center for Rural Health
University of North Dakota School of Medicine & Health Sciences
PO Box 9037
Grand Forks, ND 58202-9037

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Email: (mamundson@medicine.nodak.edu)

OR

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600 E. Boulevard Ave Dept 301
Bismarck, ND 58505-0200

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